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INFORMATION REPORT

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1. Upon his return from Moscow last March, MAO Tse-tung instructed the United Front Department of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) Central Committee to shift its attention from inland China to Southeast Asia. HSIAO K'ue (蕭光), Chief of Staff of the 4 Field Army, was selected to take charge of this task.
2. HSIAO left Hankow on 29 March for Peiping, where he conferred with LI Wei-han (李維漢), director of the United Front Department. It was decided that HSIAO was to remain permanently in the Central and South China area. One representative each from the 4 Field Army Command, the United Front Department of the Central and South China Bureau would form a group, with HSIAO K'ue as the head. This group would be known officially as First Special Small Group (第一特別小組) of the Central People's Revolutionary Military Council. It would have six sections under its control; namely, action, publicity, liaison, investigation, military, and political. The immediate activities of this group were to be directed toward Hong Kong, Macao, and Vietnam.
3. HSIAO left Peiping at the beginning of July for Hankow, and was accompanied by a group of nine staff members.
4. Upon HSIAO's appointment to this post last March, the vacancy in the 4 Field Army was filled by CHAO Erh-lu (趙爾陸), the Deputy Chief of Staff.*

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Comment. It appears the 4 Field Army has been designated to carry out the military aspects of HSIAO's present assignment, except for Burma, which is the responsibility of the 2 Field Army. HSIAO's long relationship with the 4 Field Army makes such an arrangement logical. HSIAO K's is a native of Chiaho, Hunan, a graduate of the Whampoa Military Academy, and a close friend of LIN Piao. In 1927 he joined the CCP. He has served as a battalion, regiment and division commander, and when the 4 Field Army was formed, was appointed as its Chief of Staff.

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* [redacted] Comment. Although CHAO Erh-lu is identified as deputy chief of the 2 Field Army [redacted] the internal evidence of the report indicates that he may have been deputy chief of staff of the 4 Field Army.

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